

Application No. 10/765,323
Amendment dated February 21, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2005

Docket No. 1232-5260

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 6 are independent.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A printing apparatus which needs to periodically execute maintenance operation after activation, comprising:

~~timer counting means, having a register in which a flag is written when an abnormality occurs in a battery, for counting time on the basis of an internal time, said counting means is operated by power supplied from the a battery;~~

~~nonvolatile storage means;~~

~~internal time counting means for counting up internal time on the basis of time read out from said timer means;~~

~~timer abnormality processing means for, when the flag is written in the register upon activating the apparatus, writing information representing occurrence of the abnormality in said storage means, setting predetermined time as the internal time, clearing the flag, and setting the predetermined time in said timer means; and~~

~~flag setting means for setting a flag in a register when a battery abnormality has occurred in said counting means;~~

~~determining means for determining whether the battery abnormality has occurred based on the status of the flag set in said flag setting means;~~

~~refreshing means for refreshing the internal time with a predetermined time when it is determined that the battery abnormality has occurred based on the result from said determining means; and~~

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maintenance designation means for designating execution of the maintenance operation on the basis of the internal time.

2 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising ~~reset means for, when the information representing occurrence of the abnormality is written in said storage means upon reception of time information from a connected host device, setting the received time information as the internal time, clearing means for clearing the information representing occurrence of the abnormality after said refreshing means refreshes the internal time, and setting the predetermined time in said timer means.~~

3 (ORIGINAL): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the battery of said timer means is so attached to be easily removed externally.

4 (ORIGINAL): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises an inkjet printhead which discharges ink and prints, and the maintenance operation includes an operation of recovering discharge performance of said printhead.

5 (ORIGINAL): The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said printhead comprises a thermal transducer for generating thermal energy to be applied to the ink so as to discharge the ink by using the thermal energy.

6 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method of controlling a printing apparatus which needs to periodically execute maintenance operation after activation and ~~has timer means, having a register in which a flag is written when an abnormality occurs in a battery, for counting time on the basis of power supplied from the battery, said printing apparatus having counting means, operated by power supplied from a battery, for counting time on the basis of an internal time, the method comprising:~~

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~~a counting step of counting up internal time on the basis of time read out from the timer means;~~

~~an abnormality processing step of, when the flag is written in the register upon activating the apparatus, writing information representing occurrence of the abnormality in nonvolatile storage means, setting predetermined time as the internal time, clearing the flag, and setting the predetermined time in the timer; and~~

setting a flag in a register when a battery abnormality has occurred in said counting means;

determining whether the battery abnormality has occurred based on the status of the flag set in said flag setting means;

refreshing the internal time with a predetermined time when it is determined that the battery abnormality has occurred based on the result from said determining means; and

a maintenance designation step of designating execution of the maintenance operation on the basis of the internal time.

7 (NEW): The method according to claim 6, further comprising clearing the flag after said refreshing step.

8 (NEW): The printing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the register is a non-volatile storage device.